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(54) **Inspection probe and system comprising a pulsed eddy current two-dimensional sensor array**

(57) A pulsed eddy current two-dimensional sensor array probe (12) for electrically conducting component inspection includes a drive coil (16) disposed adjacent to a structure under inspection, a pulse generator (20) connected to the drive coil (16) and operable to energize in a pulsed manner the drive coil (16) to transmit tran-

sient electromagnetic flux into the structure under inspection, and an array of sensors (18) arranged in a two-dimensional array and substantially surrounded by the drive coil (16) and operable to sense and generate output signals from the transient electromagnetic flux in the structure under inspection.

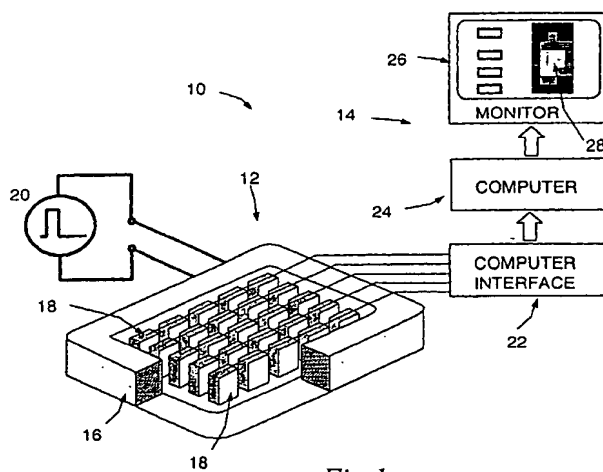


Fig. 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 02 25 4028

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
Y	EP 0 512 796 B (GEN ELECTRIC) 6 August 1997 (1997-08-06) * column 1, line 29 - line 44 * * column 3, line 43 - line 46 * * column 4, line 36 - line 41 * * column 7, line 7 - line 9; figures 1,2A *	1-10	G01N27/90
Y	US 5 391 988 A (KITAGAWA SHIGERU) 21 February 1995 (1995-02-21) * abstract * * column 1, line 23 - line 34 * * column 1, line 64 - column 2, line 6; figure 3 *	1-10	
A	EP 0 533 440 A (GEN ELECTRIC) 24 March 1993 (1993-03-24) * column 5, line 30 - line 33 * * column 1, line 43 - line 48 * * column 2, line 22 - line 30; figures 1,3 *	6-10	
A	US 3 875 502 A (NEUMAIER PETER) 1 April 1975 (1975-04-01) * abstract * * figure 4 *	2-4	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) G01N
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 24 October 2003	Examiner Wulveryck, J-M
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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24-10-2003

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